



1FW

Atty. Dkt. No. 023228-0109

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Steele et al.
Title: WAFER INSPECTION SYSTEM
Appl. No.: 10/771,628
Filing Date: 02/03/2004
Examiner:
Art Unit: 2812

<p>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date below.</p> <p><u>JORIE JOHNSON</u> (Printed Name)</p> <p><u>Jorie Johnson</u> (Signature)</p> <p><u>OCTOBER 22, 2004</u> (Date of Deposit)</p>

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document, except as noted below, is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The USPTO has waived the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) to submit copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications when citing and submitting an Information Disclosure Statements in a patent application filed after June 30, 2003 and in an international application that has entered the national stage under 37 USC §371 after June 30, 2003. Accordingly, copies of these types of documents are not being supplied in connection with this application. Reference is being made to OG Notice dated August 5, 2003, *Information Disclosure Statements May Be Filed Without Copies of U.S. Patents and Published Applications in Patent Applications filed after June 30, 2003.*

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, and within three (3) months of the mailing date of the foreign search report.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Cite Nos. A61, and A64-A72 listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 were cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding International application. A copy of the International Search Report is attached setting forth the portion of each document considered relevant by the examiner. An English-language counterpart of the foreign-language document has not been provided, but an English-language Abstract accompanies such document. The absence of a translation or an English-language counterpart document does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider any submitted document (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP§609).

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

STATEMENT

The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1) Cite Nos. A61, and A64-A72 listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 were first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to filing of this Statement.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1450. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1450.

Respectfully submitted,

Date Oct 22, 2004

By M. D. Rechtin

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 27433
Telephone: (312) 832-4586
Facsimile: (312) 832-4700

Michael D. Rechtin
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 30,128

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Date Submitted: October 22, 2004

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 3

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/771,628
Filing Date	February 3, 2004
First Named Inventor	M. Brandon Steele
Group Art Unit	2812
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	023228-0109

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	2002/0140564	A1	Danyluk et al.	10-03-2002	
	A2	2002/0186036	A1	Smith	12-12-2002	
	A3	2003/0129776	A1	Eom et al.	07-10-2003	
	A4	2003/0175945	A1	Thompson et al.	09-18-2003	
	A5	2004/0029131	A1	Thompson et al.	02-12-2004	
	A6	2004/0057497	A1	Lagowski et al.	03-25-2004	
	A7	4,166,974	A1	Vermeers	09-04-1979	
	A8	4,295,092	A1	Okamura	10-13-1981	
	A9	4,481,616	A1	Matey	11-06-1984	
	A10	4,973,910	A1	Wilson	11-27-1990	
	A11	5,087,533	A1	Brown	02-11-1992	
	A12	5,136,247	A1	Hansen	08-04-1992	
	A13	5,214,389	A1	Cao et al.	05-25-1993	
	A14	5,217,907	A1	Bulucea et al.	06-08-1993	
	A15	5,218,362	A1	Mayes et al.	06-08-1993	
	A16	5,270,664	A1	McMurtry et al.	12-14-1993	
	A17	5,272,443	A1	Winchip et al.	12-21-1993	
	A18	5,278,407	A1	Ikebe et al.	01-11-1994	
	A19	5,293,131	A1	Semones et al.	03-08-1994	
	A20	5,315,259	A1	Jostlein	05-24-1994	
	A21	5,369,370	A1	Stratmann et al.	11-29-1994	
	A22	5,381,101	A1	Bloom et al.	01-10-1995	
	A23	5,460,684	A1	Saeki et al.	10-24-1995	
	A24	5,517,123	A1	Zhao et al.	05-1996	
	A25	5,583,443	A1	McMurtry et al.	12-18-1996	
	A26	5,723,980	A1	Haase et al.	03-03-1998	
	A27	5,723,981	A1	Hellemans et al.	03-03-1998	
	A28	5,773,989	A1	Edelman et al.	06-30-1998	
	A29	5,974,869	A1	Danyluk et al.	11-02-1999	
	A30	5,977,788	A1	Lagowski	11-02-1999	
	A31	6,011,404	A1	Ma et al.	01-04-2000	
	A32	6,037,797	A1	Lagowski et al.	03-14-2000	
	A33	6,091,248	A1	Hellemans et al.	07-19-2000	
	A34	6,094,971	A1	Edwards et al.	08-01-2000	
	A35	6,097,196	A1	Verukuil et al.	08-01-2000	
	A36	6,114,865	A1	Lagowski et al.	09-05-2000	
	A37	6,127,289	A1	Debusk	10-03-2000	
	A38	6,139,759	A1	Doezema et al.	10-31-2000	

Examiner
Signature

Date
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Date Submitted: October 22, 2004

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 2 of 3

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/771,628
Filing Date	February 3, 2004
First Named Inventor	M. Brandon Steele
Group Art Unit	2812
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	023228-0109

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

U.S. Patent Document					
A39	6,198,300		Doezema et al.	03-06-2001	
A40	6,201,401		Hellemans et al.	03-13-2001	
A41	6,232,134		Farber et al.	05-15-2001	
A42	6,255,128		Chacon et al.	07-03-2001	
A43	6,265,890		Chacon et al.	07-24-2001	
A44	6,517,669		Chapman	02-11-2003	
A45	6,538,462		Lagowski et al.	03-25-2003	
A46	6,597,193		Lagowski et al.	07-22-2003	
A47	6,664,546		McCord et al.	12-16-2003	
A48	6,664,800		Chacon et al.	12-16-2003	
A49	6,680,621		Savtchouk et al.	01-20-2004	
A50	6,717,413		Danyluk et al.	04-06-2004	
A51	6,011,404	A1	Ma et al.	01-04-2000	
A52	6,520,839	A1	Gonzalez-Martin et al.	02-18-2003	
A53	6,551,972	B1	Lei et al.	04-22-2003	
A54	2003/0052374	A1	Lee et al.	03-20-2003	
A55	2003/0139838	A1	Marella	07-24-2003	
A56	2003/0164942	A1	Take	09-04-2003	
A57	2004/0058620	A1	Gotkis et al.	03-25-2004	
A58	2004/0105093	A1	Hamamatsu et al.	06-03-2004	
A59	2004/0134515	A1	Castrucci	07-15-2004	
A60	6,717,413		Danyluk et al.	04-06-2004	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	A61	WO	01/90730	A2	Sensorchem Int'l Corp.	11-29-2001	p. 17, ll. 15-30; figs. 10A-B	
	A62	DD	297509	A5	Kloeden R.	01-09-1992		A

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO		Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: October 22, 2004 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Application Number	10/771,628
		Filing Date	February 3, 2004
		First Named Inventor	M. Brandon Steele
		Group Art Unit	2812
		Examiner Name	
Sheet	3	of	3
		Attorney Docket Number	023228-0109

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶
	A63	B SCRUTON and B.H. BLOTT, A High Resolution Probe for Scanning Electrostatic Potential Profiles Across Surfaces; Journal of Physics E: Scientific Instruments (May 1973), pp. 472-474; Vol. 6, No. 5, Printed in Great Britain.	
	A64	YANO D ET AL: "Nonvibrating contact potential difference probe measurement of a nanometer-scale lubricant on a hard disk", Journal of Tribology, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, New York, NY, US; Vol. 121, No. 4, October 1999, pages 980-983, XP008031092, ISSN: 0742-4787 (pp. 980-981, fig. 4, first ref. on p. 983).	
	A65	CASTALDINI A ET AL: "Surface analyses of polycrystalline and Cz-Si wafers", Solar Energy Materials and Solar Cells, Elsevier Science Publishers, Amsterdam, NL; Vol. 72, No. 1-4, April 2002, pp. 425-432, XP004339790, ISSN: 0927-0248 (whole document).	
	A66	KORACH C S ET AL: "Measurement of perfluoropolyether lubricant thickness on a magnetic disk surface", Applied Physics Letters, American Institute of Physics, New York, NY, US; Vol. 79, No. 5, July 30, 2001, pp. 698-700, XP012029958, ISSN: 0003-6951 (p. 699, left column; fig. 2).	
	A67	YANG Y ET AL: "Kelvin probe study on the perfluoropolyether film on metals", Tribology Letters, 2001, Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, USA, vol. 10, no. 4, pages 211-216, XP009035197, ISSN: 1023-8883 (page 211-page 212).	
	A68	CASTALDINI A ET AL: "Scanning Kelvin probe and surface photovoltage analysis of multicrystalline silicon", Materials Science and Engineering B., Elsevier Sequoia, Lausanne, CH; Vol. 91-92, April 30, 2002, pp. 234-238, XP004355534, ISSN: 0921-5107 (chapters "2.2 Scanning Kelvin probe: and "4.2 Scanning Kelvin probe analyses").	
	A69	LAGEL B ET AL: "A novel detection system for defects and chemical contamination in semiconductors based upon the scanning Kelvin probe", 14 th International Vacuum Congress (IVC-14). 10 th International Conference on Solid Surfaces (ICS-10). 5 th International Conference on Nanometre-Scale Science and Technology (NANO-5). 10 th International Conference on Quantitative Surface Analysis; Vol. 433-435, pp. 622-626, XP002292441, Surface Science, August 2, 1999, Elsevier, NL, ISSN: 003906028 (whole document).	
	A70	REN J ET AL: "Scanning Kelvin Microscope: a new method for surface investigations" 8. Arbeitstatgung Angewandte Oberflächenanalytik 'AOFA 8' ('Applied Surface Analysis'), Kaiserslautern, DE, September 5-8, 1994; Vol. 353, No. 3-4, pp. 303-306, XP009035181, Fresenius' Journal of Analytical Chemistry, October 1995, Springer-Verlag, DE, ISSN: 0937-0633 (p. 304, right column; fig. 1).	
	A71	BAUMGARTNER H ET AL: "Micro Kelvin probe for local work-function measurements", Review of Scientific Instruments, May 1988, USA; Vol. 59, No. 5, pp. 802-805, XP002292442, ISSN: 0034-6748 (abstract; fig. 4, chapter "V. Results").	
	A72	DANYLUK S: "Non-vibrating contact potential imaging for semiconductor fabrication", Semicon West 2003, 'Online!', July 14, 2003, pp. 1-15, XP002292443, retrieved from the internet: ,URL:http://dom.semi.org/web/wFiles.nsf/Lookup/TIS18_QceptTechnologiesInc/\$file/TIS18%20QceptTechnologiesInc.Alternate.pdf. 'retrieved on August 13, 2004 (whole document).	

Examiner
Signature

Date
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.